

# Aguilera legislation to have significant impact for Lake County

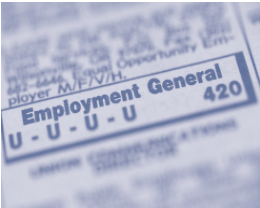


Listed below are several pieces of legislation that I helped to pass which should benefit our district and Lake County in a variety of ways, from reigning in some of the abuses that happen with absentee voting to keeping jobs in Indiana to reaching out to non-English speaking residents by affording them access to better health care services.



## Senate Enrolled Act 72- Absentee Voting Reform

SEA 72 contains most of the election law matters that were introduced this session, including restrictions on absentee voting and criteria which allow counties to purge voting lists. I sponsored similar legislation which was not heard, but I helped to shape this bill through amendments that I offered on the House floor. Many of the recommendations of the Voter Integrity Board were included in this bill, which will hopefully eliminate many of the voting and election problems that our area has seen in recent years. *This bill was enacted into law.*



## House Resolution 47 and Pool 5 amendments- Protecting Hoosier Jobs

I co-authored HR 47 which calls on the president and U.S. Congress to address the growing trade imbalance and loss of more than 2 million manufacturing jobs in the U.S. since 2001.

I also authored two amendments which would have corrected an imbalance created by 2003 legislation which placed integrated steel manufacturers and petrochemical companies in a special taxing bracket called Pool 5. This legislation was passed before the tariffs were lifted on foreign steel and has affected job loss in ways that were unanticipated at the time. My amendments would have penalized companies which send permanent jobs overseas by revoking their Pool 5 status. We were unable to get this language enacted due to the walkout, but I intend to introduce this language again next year.



## House Enrolled Act 1350- Health Care Improvements

I authored HEA 1350 which creates a Commission on Health Care Interpreters and Translators. This legislation was introduced to address the need for clearer communication between health care professionals and the people they treat in an environment that is becoming increasingly diverse. This is an important step forward both for the people who provide care as well as the people who receive it. *This bill was enacted into law.*



## House Bill 1282- Regional Transportation Authority

One measure which did not pass this year was HB 1282 which I authored to establish a food and beverage tax in Lake County. The measure made it further through the process than anyone expected, but it was held up in the Senate, which neither gave the bill a hearing nor allowed it to be amended into a conference committee report. I intend to reintroduce this language next year as part of the biennial budget to prevent one legislator from holding up this effort. I want to thank Dennis Rittenmeyer, President of the Regional Transit Authority, and all of those who participated in bringing this initiative to fruition. These efforts take time, but I truly believe that next year will be our year.



## House Enrolled Act 1434- Job Grants and Training

As a co-author of HEA 1434, I supported this bill which provides grants for training and technical assistance to micro-enterprises, which are small businesses of fewer than five employees that lack access to conventional loans, equity and other banking services. One of the components of economic development has to be supporting small, Hoosier-grown businesses and I am pleased that legislation was passed to accomplish that goal. *This bill was enacted into law.*

# Aguilera, House of Representatives reach out to Hispanic Community

Representative Aguilera was recently named secretary-treasurer of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), which is the preeminent organization representing the interests of Hispanic state legislators from all states, commonwealths and territories of the United States.

Aguilera's service to this organization will help develop ideas for legislation that could be of value to thousands of Hoosiers. The issues under discussion among members of the NHCSL represent the cutting edge of policy-making in education, health care, economic development and social policy.

The NHCSL's president-elect, New York Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, said of Aguilera: "He is an honorable representative of his constituency and has worked tirelessly toward improving the quality of life for the Latino community in his district and beyond."

The House of Representatives invited Hispanic youth from across Indiana to visit the Statehouse as pages this year for the second annual Hispanic Student Outreach Day.



This experience is designed for students 13-18 years of age to help them better understand their state government and raise awareness in the Latino community about the various governmental services that are available.

As the only Hispanic lawmaker in the Indiana General Assembly, Representative Aguilera has concerns that previous generations may have had negative experiences with state government. In sponsoring this event, he is trying to reach out to all people, including the Latino community, to involve them in the political process and motivate them to become active participants in our state government.

The day is co-sponsored by the Indiana House Hispanic Outreach Office, the House Student Services Office, the Mexican Consulate, and the Indiana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Activities included presentations from guest speakers as well as cultural activities celebrating the heritage and customs of Indiana's various Latino communities.

Those who are interested in participating in Hispanic Student Outreach Day next year should call the toll-free number of 1-800-382-9842 to contact Hispanic Outreach Coordinator Lawrence McCormack.

## Representative John Aguilera

State Representative, House District 12  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(800) 382-9842

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